

~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE EYES ONLY 170140Z AUG 72 VIA CAS CHANNELS  
VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

SAIGON 0133 IMMEDIATE

NSS review  
completed.

HAK TO 12

TO: GENERAL HAIG, THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

1. WE HAVE HEARD UNCONFIRMED REPORT HERE THAT PIERRE SALINGER WENT TO PARIS ON BEHALF OF MCGOVERN TO TALK TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. IF THIS REPORT IS TRUE I THINK WHITE HOUSE SHOULD ISSUE STRONGEST POSSIBLE STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

2. IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE INDEED FOR SENATOR MCGOVERN TO BE SENDING AN EMISSARY NOW TO PARIS TO TALK TO THE ENEMY. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT WHICH THE SENATOR HAS EVEN REFUSED TO BE BRIEFED. IT IS STRANGE INDEED TO SEE THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATE REFUSE TO HEAR FROM HIS OWN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SENDING HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO TALK TO THE OTHER SIDE IN TOTAL IGNORANCE. THIS CANNOT BUT HURT THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

3. IN MY VIEW A VERY TOUGH STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT SHOULD BE ISSUED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. NATURALLY THIS REPORT SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CONFIRMED BEFORE ISSUING OUR STATEMENT.

WARM REGARDS.

SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

August 17, 1972

VIA SPECIAL CHANNEL  
IMMEDIATE

HAK TO 12

TO: GENERAL HAIG, THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

1. We have heard unconfirmed report here that Pierre Salinger <sup>WENT</sup> ~~is going~~ to Paris on behalf of McGovern to talk to the North Vietnamese.

If this report is true I think White House should issue strongest possible statement along following lines.

2. It is irresponsible indeed for Senator McGovern to be sending an emissary now to Paris to talk to the enemy. The U.S. Government is engaged in ~~private~~ negotiations about which the Senator has even refused to be briefed. It is strange indeed to see the opposition candidate refuse to hear from his own government about the negotiations while at the same time sending his <sup>representative</sup> ~~spokesman~~ to talk to the other side in total ignorance. This cannot but hurt the cause of peace.

3. In my view a very tough statement to this effect should be issued as quickly as possible. Naturally this report should be absolutely confirmed before issuing our statement.

Warm regards.

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